

Section 7

Articulation between national and state accreditation

A. Merged California-National Accreditation Reviews

An institution may apply for a merged visit for state and national accreditation under the Common Standards and the applicable Program Standards. In a merged visit, a single accreditation team serves the state and national accrediting bodies. The following policies apply:

1. The team has two co-leaders, one appointed according to state accreditation procedures and one appointed by the national accrediting body.
2. The Common Standards and groups of programs are reviewed by appropriate clusters of reviewers selected by the team co-leaders and the Commission's staff consultant. The cluster of members to review the Common Standards includes members appointed by the national body and at least one California member selected according to state accreditation procedures.
3. The national accrediting entity agrees to use the Common Standards that have been adopted by the Commission.
4. The accreditation process of the national entity includes on-site reviews.
5. Accreditation teams represent ethnic and gender diversity, and include elementary and secondary school practitioners and postsecondary education members; a minimum of one voting member of each team is from California.
6. For continuing national and state accreditation in California, the national entity agrees to appoint a team that is equivalent in size and structure to an initial accreditation review team.
7. The period of accreditation is consistent with a seven-year cycle, or is compatible with the accreditation cycle established by the state.

B. *Independent* National Accreditation of an Education Unit

Upon the request of an institution, the accreditation of an education unit (school, college or department of education) by a national accrediting body *shall* substitute for state accreditation under the Common Standards provided that the Committee on Accreditation certifies to the Commission that the national accrediting entity fulfills the following conditions (Ed code 44374 (f)):

1. The national accrediting entity agrees to use the Common Standards that have been adopted by the Commission.
2. The accreditation process of the national entity includes on-site reviews.
3. Accreditation teams represent ethnic and gender diversity, and include elementary and secondary school practitioners and postsecondary education members; a minimum of one voting member of each team is from California.
4. For continuing national and state accreditation in California, the national entity agrees to appoint a team that is equivalent in size and structure to an initial accreditation review team.
5. The period of accreditation is consistent with a seven-year cycle, or is compatible with the accreditation cycle established by the state.

C. National Accreditation of a Credential Program

Upon the request of an institution, the accreditation of a credential program by a national accrediting entity will substitute for state review of the program provided that the Committee on Accreditation certifies to the Commission that the national accreditation entity satisfies the following conditions.

1. The accrediting entity agrees to use the adopted California Program Standards for the specific credential under Option 1, or the standards used by the national entity are determined by the Committee to be equivalent to those adopted by the Commission under Option 1.
2. The accreditation team represents ethnic and gender diversity.
3. The accreditation team includes both postsecondary members and elementary and secondary school practitioners; a minimum of one voting member is from California.
4. The period of accreditation is consistent with a seven-year cycle, or is compatible with the accreditation cycle established by the state.